

manager of the Food Basket Supermarket, the family owned forerunner of Food Circus.

Mrs. Scaduto, a delegate to the 1992 Republican National Convention and alternate delegate at the 1988 convention, has had a long history of activity in Republican politics in New Jersey.

She has been president of the New Jersey Federation of Women since 1991 after serving in a number of roles in the organization, including vice president, corresponding secretary and member of the Board of Governors. Her dedication has allowed her to serve on countless Federation committees and chair numerous events. She is a State committee-woman for Monmouth County and has served on the committees of Kapalko for Congress and Azzolina for Congress. She is a former president and vice president of the Women's Republican Club of Middletown and a current member of Women of the 1990's. Mrs. Scaduto also chaired a number of special events and dinners, including a 1989 luncheon for our former colleague, the late Millicent Fenwick.

Despite the long hours involved in supporting the Republican Party, Mrs. Scaduto has also found time for civic activities. She is a member of the Georgian Court College Advisory Council and the Central Jersey chapter of the March of Dimes. She was presented the Community Service Award by the Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce in 1994 and the Women of Leadership Award by the Monmouth Girl Scouts in 1993, among many other awards. She has been active in Girl Scouts leadership since her days as Brownie troop leader in the 1960's.

With no end to her energy and enthusiasm, she is also the wife of Louis Scaduto, the mother of 4 children and grandmother of 11.

Grace Scaduto is truly and example to us all. Her service to society in all its aspects—family, politics and community—has been inspirational. I thank her for all she has done and wish her well in all that she does in the future.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ORPHAN DRUG RESEARCH

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my distinguished senior colleague from the Ways and Means Committee, ROBERT MATSUI, the Orphan Drug Tax Credit Amendments of 1995.

In 1983, the Congress enacted legislation that granted a tax credit for the clinical testing of drugs used to treat rare diseases with limited commercial potential, commonly referred to as orphan drugs. This legislation, in conjunction with orphan drug market exclusivity, has been successful in encouraging the type of narrow research critical to finding answers to the many questions posed by rare diseases. Currently, there are approximately 600 drugs that have received orphan drug designation and more than 100 of those have been approved for marketing. Because of the orphan drug legislation, we now have drugs to treat such diseases as cystic fibrosis, hepatitis

B, multiple sclerosis, renal cell carcinoma, and pituitary dwarfism.

The bill we are introducing today would make two significant changes to the orphan drug tax credit:

First, it would make the orphan drug tax credit, which expired at the end of last year, permanent. Uncertainty over the future of the tax credit has caused a significant decline in the investment of capital in the biotechnology industry.

Second, this bill would allow companies to carry the tax credit back or forward pursuant to section 39 of the Internal Revenue Code. Most of the companies engaged in research of orphan drugs do not qualify for the tax credit. Under current law, a company can only claim a credit against their current year tax liability. Since most companies involved in orphan drug research are biotechnology firms that are still developing and have yet to market a product, they have no tax liability against which to claim the tax credit. This structural change would allow a developing company, such as a biotechnology firm, to use the tax credit at such time that it had a tax liability.

I am pleased to note that this bill is endorsed by both the Biotechnology Industry Organization, which represents the biotechnology industry, and the National Organization for Rare Disorders, Inc. [NORD], the primary non-profit organization representing patients with rare diseases.

I commend this bill to my colleagues and look forward to its prompt approval by the Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FEDERAL EM- PLOYEES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN OKLAHOMA CITY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to honor the dedicated Federal employees who lost their lives in bomb blast at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. We will long remember these civil servants who paid the highest price for their commitment to public service.

One such dedicated public servant killed in the bomb blast was Secret Service agent Alan Whicher. Agent Whicher was a native of Maryland and lived in the town of Rockville, MD, until last October when he was transferred to Oklahoma City. While he was in Washington, Alan Whicher was assigned to protect the President. The transfer to America's heartland was viewed as a safer and less hectic assignment.

Alan Whicher was brought back home to Maryland to be buried. A wake was held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Rockville, where he stopped each morning before he went to work. Former neighbors, relatives, and colleagues poured into the church to pay their last respects.

President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton attended the funeral. Alan Whicher was described by his former neighbors and friends as a man who cared deeply about his community. He was a loving husband to his wife, Pamela, and he was a devoted father to his three children. One of his

last acts was to call his wife, who was about to give a speech at their new church, to offer encouragement and to wish her well.

Alan Whicher was a hero. All of the Federal employees who died in the ugly bomb blast in Oklahoma City were heroes. They were Americans who worked hard in unglamorous jobs to improve the quality of life for others. They were men and women who upheld the virtues of thrift and hard work to achieve economic independence. Their lives will not have been in vain if we can translate what happened in Oklahoma City into something that brings the whole country together.

A TRIBUTE TO AMANDA SHANKLE

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amanda Shankle on being selected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary as the winner of the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. Amanda is a 17-year-old constituent of mine and resides in Schellsburg, PA.

Amanda has written an extraordinary essay and deserves much praise for winning such a competitive contest. Her work shows insights into her subject matter and solid command of the English language. I would ask that all of my colleagues join me in offering a warm congratulations to Amanda for her excellent work.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would also ask that Amanda's essay be reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that all of my colleagues will have access to her fine work.

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

(By Amanda Shankle)

A vision is something seen in a dream, the vivid product of the imagination's power. My vision of America is the dream of a powerful nation, confident, united, and proud. It is a dream that exists only because of the thousands of brave men and women who fought for America's freedom, who sacrificed so that I might have the opportunity to express and to achieve my dream. Because of them I awake each day knowing that my future stands before me, alluring, exhilarating, and full of hope and promise.

But I also know that if my children are to awaken to that same dream, it is my responsibility to work to achieve it, to ensure that my vision for America becomes a reality. I must work for a country whose natural environment is not wasted by ignorance, greed or neglect, but preserved to support future generations. I must work for a nation in which people care for, and help one another, a nation that rests on a strong spiritual foundation of tolerance and faith, where all persons are treated with dignity, justice and respect.

I dream of an America whose leaders put the good of their people first, before party loyalty or personal gain; an America where no child goes to bed hungry, and no family is without a home. I dream of an America where the right to medical treatment and health care is basic; where no one has to suffer because they cannot afford the help they need.

I must work for a country where crime, drugs, and violence are the rare exception rather than the common rule, and I know that to achieve that dream I must support